AVENGERS VS X-MEN

MARVEL

VS

ROUND 6

HICKMAN
COIPEL
MORALES
MARTIN

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V·MMXII

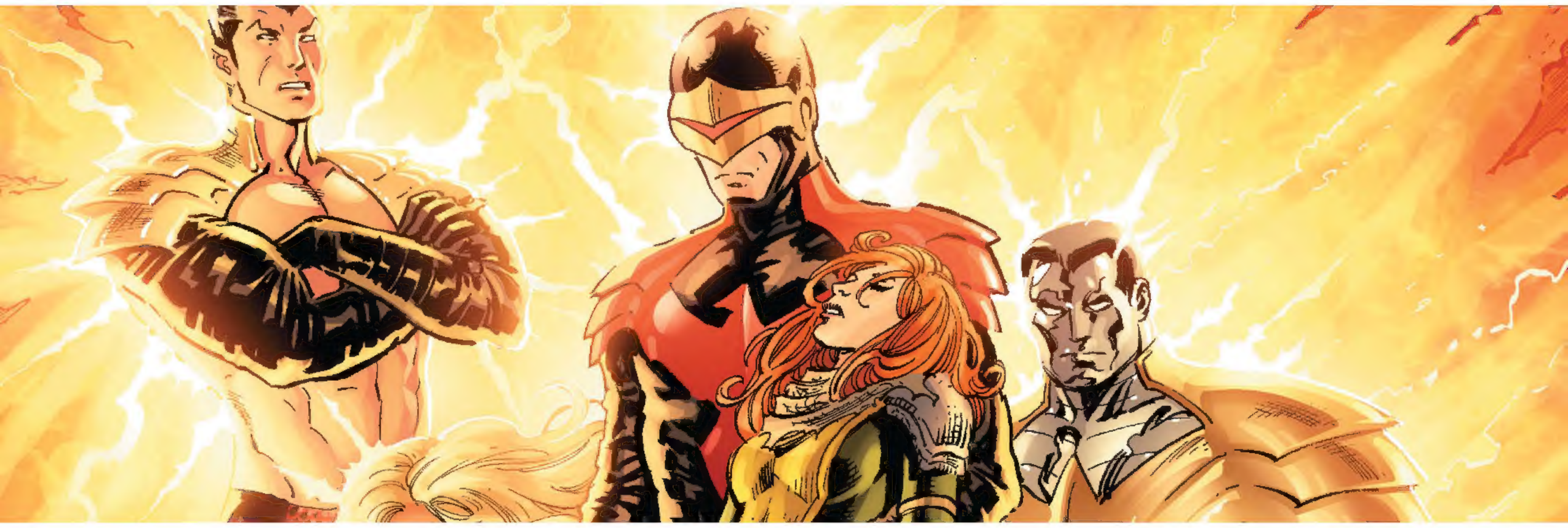
AVX VS

ROUND 6

THE PHOENIX FORCE HAS ARRIVED! IN A BATTLE WITHIN THE BLUE AREA OF THE MOON, THE AVENGERS FOUGHT TO PREVENT THE ANNIHILATION OF THE WORLD WHILE THE X-MEN, BELIEVING THE PHOENIX TO REPRESENT THE RESURRECTION OF THE MUTANT RACE THROUGH THEIR MESSIAH, HOPE, HELD THEIR GROUND AGAINST EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES.

BUILDING A GIGANTIC PHOENIX KILLER SUIT OF ARMOR, IRON MAN ATTEMPTED TO DISPERSE THE PHOENIX FORCE BEFORE IT COULD REACH EARTH. HOWEVER, WHEN STARK FIRED, THE COSMIC ENTITY WAS FRAGMENTED AND ITS ENERGIES ENTERED FIVE X-MEN INSTEAD: CYCLOPS, MAGIK, COLOSSUS, EMMA FROST, AND NAMOR!

THE GREATLY EMPOWERED PHOENIX FIVE HAVE TAKEN HOPE AND RETURNED TO EARTH...



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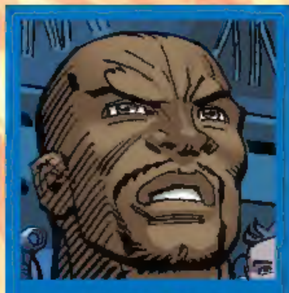
AVENGERS

CAPTAIN AMERICA

IRON FIST


LUKE CAGE

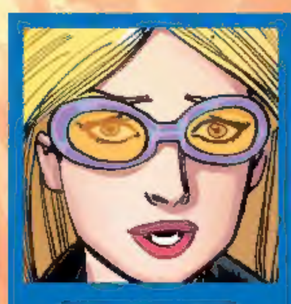
SPIDER-WOMAN

BLACK PANTHER

IRON MAN

BEAST

WOLVERINE


MOCKINGBIRD

THE VISION

BLACK WIDOW

THOR

HAWKEYE

SCARLET WITCH

LEI KUNG

THE PHOENIX FIVE

CYCLOPS

EMMA FROST

COLOSSUS

MAGIK

NAMOR

PROFESSOR X

SUNSPOT

PSYLOCKE

ICEMAN

CANNONBALL

GAMBIT

PRIMAL

VELOCIDAD

GLOB HERMAN

TRANSONIC

HOPE

X-MEN

TEN DAYS LATER.
UTOPIA.

HELLO, ERIK.

CHARLES.
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU, OLD FRIEND.
WE'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU...

WELCOME TO UTOPIA.

OF COURSE, I HAD SEEN IT ON THE TELEVISION, BUT IN PERSON--MY GOD--THE *SCALE* OF THIS PLACE...

YES. WHAT A MAGNIFICENT THING THEY HAVE BUILT.

GREAT DEEDS BY THE GREATEST OF MEN...

WE'RE HERE.

IT DOESN'T SEEM SO LONG AGO THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE NOT TO THINK OF THEM AS *JUST CHILDREN*...AND OURS AT THAT.

I STILL DO.

YOU SHOULDN'T. THEY'VE CHANGED, CHARLES.

HE'S CHANGED... AND HE'S RIGHT THROUGH THERE.

HELLO, PROFESSOR.

I KNOW WHY YOU'VE COME. I CAN SEE IT IN YOUR MIND.

THEN I'M SURE YOU UNDERSTAND MY CONCERNS PERFECTLY.

THE POWER YOU'RE WIELDING... IT UNNERVES THE WORLD.

PEOPLE ARE *AFRAID.*

YOU ALWAYS TOLD ME WE SHOULD **NEVER** FEAR **TOMORROW,** PROFESSOR.

THIS IS A **NEW** DAY.

YOU DON'T NEED THE VISOR ANYMORE, DO YOU, SCOTT?

NO.

THEN WHY WEAR IT?

ONCE, A GREAT MAN TAUGHT ME THE VALUE OF HAVING A SINGULAR VISION...

OF SEEING THE WORLD AS IT COULD BE.

I WOULD NEVER WANT TO LOSE THAT, CHARLES.

THIS IS NOT WHAT I MEANT.

I KNOW... IT'S SOMETHING **BETTER.**

RIGHT NOW, WE ARE REMAKING THE WORLD...TRANSFORMING IT INTO A BETTER PLACE FOR ALL LIVING THINGS.

WHERE IT WAS ONCE BARREN, IT BLOOMS.

WHERE THERE WAS HUNGER, THERE WILL NOW BE A FEAST.

THE HORN OF AFRICA.

THE TAYMYR PENINSULA.

THERE WILL BE NO MORE THIRST, AS ANY MAN CAN DRINK FROM OUR NEW SPRING...

AND ENERGY, THERE WILL BE ENERGY...BOUNDLESS, LIMITLESS...AND FREE.

THEY WILL NOT FEAR US, PROFESSOR... THEY WILL THANK US.

THE GOBI DESERT.

THE ALEUTIAN TRENCH.

THERE WILL STILL BE FALLOUT.

OF COURSE. OLD WAYS OPPOSE CHANGE. MOST WILL BEND...

REMEMBER WHAT YOU TAUGHT US, PROFESSOR, **THEY WILL CHANGE.** MANKIND WILL ACCEPT THE FUTURE.

I BELIEVE THAT. I ALWAYS HAVE.

I KNOW...BUT NOT LIKE THIS. IT'S ***CHEATING...*** IT HAS COST ***NOTHING.***

COST NOTHING?

NO, PROFESSOR... WE HAVE PAID A HIGH PRICE FOR FAR TOO LONG...

NOW, THE **REAL WORLD** IS MOLDED TO OUR SLIGHTEST WHIM.

REALITY ITSELF...WHAT WE WANT IT TO BE.

DON'T YOU SEE? THE DAY YOU LONGED FOR HAS ARRIVED...

HERE IS YOUR DREAM, CHARLES...

I HAVE GIVEN IT TO YOU.

IT'S HAPPENED AGAIN.

AVENGERS TOWER.
TWO DAYS LATER.

IS EVERYONE ALL RIGHT?

MUCH BETTER THAN WE SHOULD BE...

WHY DON'T YOU WALK ME THROUGH IT.

SURE...

WE WERE ON THE WAY BACK FROM DEALING WITH THAT ROGUE HYDRA NEST IN HELSINKI WHEN SOMEONE TRIGGERED A DORMANT NATO ALERT BEACON IN THE BALTICS.

TURNS OUT THOSE THINGS ARE POWERED BY A HIGH-YIELD DYNAMO...

"WHICH IS JUST THE KIND OF THING A *ZZZAX* WOULD USE IF IT HAD RECENTLY NESTED.

"WE HAD NO IDEA WHAT WE WERE WALKING INTO, CAP...

"THE *ELECTRIC LEGION* OVERWHELMED US.

"I THOUGHT WE WERE DONE FOR...

"AND THEN... THEN..."

THEN THE X-MEN SHOWED UP.

"X-*MAN*. JUST ONE. *COLOSSUS*.

"HE WALKED OUT OF THE *SIEGE COURAGEOUS* LIKE A METAL GOD...

"HE WALKED OUT AND *SAVED US*."

WELL, *GOOD.* I ASSUME HE WAS ABLE TO DEFEAT THE LEGION, BUT WERE YOU ABLE TO GET SOME IDEA OF WHAT THE UPPER LEVELS OF HIS POWERS ARE?

WAS THERE ANY SHOW OF WEAKNESS WHEN HE WAS FIGHTING... DID HE--

MY HANDS STARTED BURNING AS SOON AS HE SHOWED UP, CAP... BUT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND...

THERE WASN'T A FIGHT.

EXCUSE ME?

"THEY JUST... TALKED IT OUT."

EXACTLY WHAT WAS SAID, DANNY?

NO IDEA. I DON'T SPEAK ELECTRIC...BUT THE END RESULT WAS THE LEGION AGREEING TO FUNCTION AS THE POWER GRID FOR A LARGE PORTION OF EASTERN EUROPE.

MORE *FREE* MUTANT ENERGY, I GUESS...*NO MESS.* EVERYTHING WORKED OUT FINE, CAP.

OKAY... OKAY...

BE CAREFUL AND WE'LL TALK MORE WHEN YOU GET HOME.

EVERYTHING WORKED OUT FINE.

SEE, THERE'S A SLIGHT VARIATION IN THE PHOENIX'S TELEMETRY AS IT APPROACHED EARTH.

SEVERAL. MICROSCOPIC CORRECTIONS, I'M SURE.

YES, YES...AS I SAID. A NON-STATIONARY TARGET WOULD--

I'M TELLIN' YOU, IT WAS HOPE. WE WERE ON THE MOVE.

EXCUSE ME, EVERYONE...

...WE'VE HAD ANOTHER PHOENIX ENCOUNTER.

DANNY, LUKE AND JESSICA HAD A RUN-IN WITH COLOSSUS IN ESTONIA.

OH MY...

THEY OKAY? PETEY DIDN'T...?

NO, EVERYONE'S FINE...

AND THE NEW, CHEAPEST ENERGY SOURCE ON THE PLANET IS A SUPER VILLAIN, WHO KNEW?

ACTUALLY, I CAME UP WITH THAT IDEA YEARS AG--

NOT THE POINT, HANK.

YOU'VE HAD A WEEK, I NEED A PLAN OF ACTION.

GIVE ME THE BEST YOU'VE GOT.

OUR BEST?

GIVEN OUR CURRENT POSITION, DO WE KNOW DOING *SOMETHING* IS BETTER THAN DOING *NOTHING?*

AND WHAT HAVE THEY DONE WRONG? WHO ARE WE TO JUDGE? HAVE ANY OF US ARGUED THOR IS TOO POWERFUL TO BE TRUSTED?

TOO MUCH DANCIN' AROUND WHAT'S NECESSARY. WHAT WE NEED IS SOMETHING LETHAL.

THAT'S OUR ONLY--

ENOUGH.

I'VE GOT A FEW THINGS-- AUGMENTED BATTLE SUITS AND A MODIFIED VERSION OF THE PHOENIX-KILLER WEAPON.

BUT MY CONCERN WITH THE LATTER REMAINS SPLINTERING THE FORCE MORE--FURTHER MULTIPLYING THE PROBLEM.

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

PLANNING FOR THE WORST.

STOP PRETENDIN' YOU DON'T KNOW HOW THIS ENDS, HANK...

EVERYTHING GOES DARK.

DO WE KNOW THAT? AS T'CHALLA SAID...WE'VE SEEN NO EVIDENCE OF IT.

RIGHT NOW, MY FRIENDS--*PEOPLE I HAVE KNOWN MY ENTIRE LIFE*--ARE REMAKING THIS PLANET INTO A PLACE THAT IS FINALLY TOLERABLE.

A WORLD WE CAN *ALL* LIVE IN.

AND I SIT HERE IN A ROOM WITH EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES TRYING TO CONCOCT A PLAN TO STOP AND POSSIBLY KILL THEM.

NO MORE, GENTLEMEN.

NO, THANK YOU.

WHERE YOU THINK YOU'RE GOIN', HANK?

NOWHERE, MY FRIEND...

MORE AND MORE EACH DAY IT LOOKS LIKE YOU AND I HAVE NO PLACE TO CALL HOME.

UTOPIA.

THIS ISN'T A PRISON, HOPE...

AS I HAVE TOLD YOU MANY TIMES SINCE YOU WOKE UP...

IF YOU'RE UNHAPPY, YOU CAN LEAVE ANYTIME YOU LIKE.

I CAN'T.

I WANT TO...BUT IT CALLS TO ME.

IT IS SEDUCTIVE, THE POWER OF LIFE AND DEATH...

THE POWER TO REMAKE WORLDS...

SIMPLY... POWER, AND INFINITE AT THAT.

I CAN HEAR IT.

YES. AND IF I OFFERED IT NOW...

WOULD YOU TAKE IT?

I...I...

YES.

BUT YOU TURNED IT DOWN. IT WAS YOURS... AND YOU REJECTED IT.

AND NOW I KNOW THAT YOU DON'T DESERVE IT.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH THE POWER, HOPE?

WOULD A CHILD HAVE ACCOMPLISHED ALL THIS?

HOW COULD YOU TRULY UNDERSTAND WHAT IS NEEDED WHEN YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED NOTHING?

YOU KNOW I CAN STILL HEAR IT...

IT WANTS TO BURN BRIGHTER, HOTTER...DO YOU REALLY THINK WHAT YOU'VE DONE IS ENOUGH?

OF COURSE NOT.

WE CAN ACCOMPLISH SO MUCH MORE.

K'UN LUN.

LATER.

ANYTHING?

[redacted]

TEARS, LEI KUNG...THEN LAUGHTER.

WHEN QUESTIONED, HE WOULD ONLY MUTTER THE SAME THING OVER AND OVER:

"SOMETHING BURNS."

...

UNLOCK IT.

OLD MAN.

HA!

I SMELL YOUR FEAR--I SMELL YOU--STORM'S SON, THUNDER'S THUNDER... WEEPING BOY.

IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE I BEAT YOU FOR SNEAKING INTO MY STUDY. DID YOU COME TO PILFER MORE SECRETS...SEEKING AGAIN THE HIDDEN LORE?

OR HAS SOMETHING TICKLED A MEMORY... STEALING YOUR SLEEP LIKE IT HAS MINE?

TELL ME. DO YOU SMELL THE CINDER AND ASH, LEI KUNG...

...OR ARE YOU AFRAID OF SOMETHING YOU'VE SEEN BEFORE?

THERE WAS A FLAMING BIRD IN THE SKY.

I NEED THE BOOK OF THE FALLEN.

YES...YES...A FIERY BIRD--THE *BURNING CYCLE*...VERY, VERY OLD THAT. VERY *BAD.*

COME TO CLEANSE THE FIELD. EXTINGUISH THE OLD AND MAKE WAY FOR THE NEW.

HEH. FONGJI THE SILENT HAD OTHER IDEAS... DO YOU REMEMBER?

TWO EQUALLY CHARGED SOULS REPELLING ONE ANOTHER...

THE *CRIMSON HEART* UNDERSTOOD THE COST AND PAID IT.

YES, YES...HERE IT IS.

THIS HAS ALL HAPPENED BEFORE...

FONGJI WU (FY 1596)--
FONGJI THE SILENT,
THE CRIMSON HEART,
THE DRAGON'S FIST.

REPELLED
THE PHOENIX OF
LIFE AND DEATH.

PREVENTING THE
CELESTIAL REBIRTH
OF EARTH AND
THE COLLAPSE OF
THE SEVEN
CAPITAL CITIES.

YOU NEED THE *IRON FIST.*

THE WHITE HOUSE. THREE DAYS LATER.

IT SAYS HERE THAT A FORMER S.H.I.E.L.D. BLACK STATION IN THE PHILIPPINES WAS JUST OCCUPIED AND CONVERTED INTO A SCHOOL BY THE MUTANT KARMA.

WE'RE TALKING ABOUT A THREE HUNDRED MILLION DOLLAR FACILITY...

THE PRESIDENT HAS A SEEMINGLY ENDLESS STACK OF REPORTS JUST LIKE THIS.

I UNDERSTAND YOUR FRUSTRATION. THESE ARE TRYING TIMES FOR ALL OF US.

IT'S GOTTEN WORSE SINCE THE X-MEN DECLARED THEMSELVES THE--

T'CHALLA, YOU--

THAT ISN'T ACCURATE.

I WAS THERE, ANTHONY. I HEARD THE WORDS AS THEY WERE BEING SPOKEN.

THEY DIDN'T DECLARE THEMSELVES ANYTHING...THEY GAVE THE ***NATIONS*** AN ULTIMATUM.

THIS IS THE WORLD--AND YOU ARE ITS PEOPLE'S REPRESENTATIVES...

SO HEAR MY WORDS.

WE HAVE GIVEN YOU WATER TO DRINK AND FOOD TO EAT. WE HAVE GIVEN YOU ENERGY--THE VERY KEY TO MODERNITY.

BUT THIS IS NOT ENOUGH! WE CAN DO MORE... AND SO WE SHALL.

WAKANDA

FROM THIS DAY FORWARD, WE GIVE YOU PEACE AND FREEDOM FROM THE AGGRESSION THAT HAS MARKED THE DARKEST DAYS OF MANKIND...

GO. BUILD GREAT THINGS, GREATER THAN HAVE EVER BEEN SEEN BEFORE...BUT NO MORE WEAPONS...NO MORE MACHINES OF DEATH...

FROM THIS DAY FORWARD WE WILL NO LONGER TOLERATE VIOLENCE TOWARDS MUTANT OR MAN.

FROM THIS DAY FORWARD, WE DECLARE NO MORE WAR.

PAX UTOPIA.

AND DO YOU THINK THEY'RE CAPABLE OF BACKING UP THEIR DEMANDS?

PERHAPS. I *DO* KNOW THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN DECADES, INSTEAD OF RUNNING FROM CONFLICT AND HUNGER, REFUGEES ARE LEAVING WAKANDA AND RETURNING NORTH TO ETHIOPIA AND SUDAN...

CERTAINLY THESE THINGS MERIT CONSIDERATION, MR. PRESIDENT.

OF COURSE THEY DO, YOUR MAJESTY. CLEARLY IT'S A WONDERFUL THING...GOD KNOWS WE GET TOO USED TO BLOODY HANDS.

BUT THIS...THIS IS...

IN SPITE OF ALL OUR FLAWS, I BELIEVE IN MANKIND--WE HAVE A HISTORY OF *FORWARD PROGRESS.*

BUT WHEN THE WORLD WORKS IT IS BECAUSE THERE HAS ALWAYS BEEN SOME OUTLYING CULTURE OF ACCOUNTABILITY.

RIGHT NOW, THESE X-MEN DO NOT HAVE THAT...

...AND SOMETHING HAS TO BE DONE.

ELSEWHERE.

THIS IS WHAT COMES NEXT.

WANDA MAXIMOFF.
THE SCARLET WITCH.

NOW.

MISSION COMMAND TO *LIBERATION*--WE'VE GOT THE GO-AHEAD FROM THE *DOD* AND *USCENTCOM*

ATC REPORTS NO FLIGHTS IN YOUR VICINITY.

AND SKYWATCH SHOWS...

"...FAVORABLE CONDITIONS."

YOU'RE ALL CLEAR. HAPPY HUNTING.

"WE WANT THE GIRL."

THREE HOURS EARLIER.

EXACTLY. IN REGARDS TO THIS MISSION, HOPE'S THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERS.

SHE'S THE KEY TO FIGURING OUT THE PHOENIX FORCE.

LIMITED SCOPE IS GOOD...IT ISN'T LIKE WE COULD GO TOE-TO-TOE WITH ANY OF THE FIVE ANYWAY, IS THERE?

AND WIN?

NO CHANCE. BUT IF WE FIND OURSELVES IN A PINCH, THE ARMOR TONY COOKED UP SURE WILL PUT MORE TEETH IN OUR BITE.

SO...WE JUMP IN, GRAB THE GIRL, GET THE HELL OUT.

YEAH, BUT WE CAN'T TELEPORT IN, MAGIK WILL HAVE COUNTERMEASURES FOR THAT...AND IF WE ROLL UP SLOW, THEY'RE GONNA SMELL US COMIN.'

THAT'S WHY WE'LL BE JUMPING A SMALL TEAM OUT OF A CONVERTED 767. THERE'S A COMMERCIAL ROUTE 50 MILES NORTH OF UTOPIA. WE'LL HALO IT.

THE TEAM WILL BE EVERYONE HERE AND--

I WON'T BE GOING.

WHAT?

I'M A HEAD-OF-STATE. IT CANNOT APPEAR AS IF WAKANDA SUPPORTS THIS ACTION...AS WE DO NOT.

NO MATTER HOW WELL-INTENTIONED IT MIGHT BE.

UNDERSTANDABLE, T'CHALLA, AND IF WE DO THIS RIGHT, HOPEFULLY IT WILL BE SELF-CONTAINED.

BACK TO THE PLAN, HERE'S THE INSERTION POINT FOR OUR TEAM. WE'VE GOT SATELLITE IMAGERY OF MULTIPLE APPEARANCES OF HOPE ON THIS OUTCROPPING--WE NEED TO BE IN UTOPIA AND GONE IN UNDER A MINUTE.

I'M TIRED OF GUESSWORK AND FAULTY THEORIES REGARDING THE PHOENIX--AS THE INTENDED PRIMARY HOST, HOPE REPRESENTS THE KEY TO FULLY UNDERSTANDING WHAT WE'RE UP AGAINST.

SO I REPEAT...

"...WE WANT THE GIRL."

WHOOOOSH

INTEL WAS GOOD--THERE SHE IS!

WHAT THE--?!

AH!

VISITORS. THE AVENGERS ARE HERE, SCOTT--THEY'VE COME AGAIN FOR HOPE.

I'LL SUMMON THE--

NO NEED.

WE WILL DEAL WITH THIS OURSELVES.

GET AWAY FROM HER, YOU--

OOFFF!

GABRIEL!

I HAVE HER!

THAT'S IT!

FULL WITHDRAWAL! EVERYONE GET--

:SNIFF:

:SNIFF:

TOO LATE, CAP. SLIM'S HERE.

INDEED I AM, LOGAN.

AND YOUR BEHAVIOR IS BECOMING EMBARRASSING.

GET BACK! WE JUST WANT THE GIRL AND WE'LL GO!

OH, YOU GET NOTHING...

AND THIS TIME YOU STAY GONE.

LOOK OUT!

WHY AM I NOT...

WHOA.

AND I THOUGHT MY HANDS WERE BURNING *BEFORE.*

WHAT IN THE--

ZZRAK!

EMMA... GET *HOPE.*

I WILL HANDLE THESE TWO.

@^%#!

STAND ASIDE, BOY...OR I WILL CALL THE STORM AND TEAR OPEN THE SKY.

YOU'RE THREATENING ME WITH WEATHER?

RRRRRR!

UUFFF!

I AM LIFE AND I AM DEATH...

YOU THINK I FEAR THE THUNDER AND LIGHTNING?

SCOTT! THERE'S SOMETHING-- CHAOS!

THE SCARLET WITCH!

THIS. MUST. STOP!

MERCY, SCOTT...FOR ALL OF MAN AND MUTANTKIND.

I HAVE SEEN WHERE THIS LEADS.

WE WERE SIMPLY DEFENDING OURSELVES, WANDA. THEY CAME INTO OUR HOME...

AND NOW THEY ARE LEAVING... WITH ME.

...

I WANT TO GO TOO.

NO. ABSOLUTELY NOT.

YOU SAID I COULD LEAVE WHENEVER I WANTED. YOU SAID THIS WASN'T A PRISON.

THIS IS DIFFERENT. THEY WANT TO USE YOU AGAINST US--I WILL NOT LET THAT HAPPEN.

I'M NOT LEAVING WITH THEM...I'M LEAVING WITH HER.

IT IS A TERRIBLE THING TO FEEL ALONE AMONG YOUR OWN KIND...TO BE MISUNDERSTOOD...

I WILL TAKE YOU WHEREVER YOU WANT TO GO.

NO! I WILL NOT--

AARGGGGHH!

I--I FELT THAT.

THIS IS NOT FOR ILL, SCOTT.

IT'S WHAT NEEDS TO BE...

UNTIL TOMORROW.

SCOTT, WHAT DO YOU--

EVERY TIME, EMMA--EVERY TIME WE GET PUSHED FURTHER INTO A CORNER...

THEY'LL NEVER STOP COMING.

WE HAVE BEEN FEARED AND HUNTED... WE HAVE BECOME ENDANGERED...WE ARE SO **VERY FEW.** AND, STILL, THEY KEEP COMING **FOR US.**

NOW, EVEN AT OUR MOST POWERFUL, EVEN WHEN WE DO THE FAVOR OF REMAKING THE EARTH INTO A MORE LIVABLE PLACE, EVEN THEN...

MANKIND FEELS BOLD ENOUGH TO SEND THEIR **HEROES** HERE TO STEAL OUR INNOCENT-- TO **TAKE AWAY** OUR TOMORROW...

I'VE FINALLY FIGURED OUT WHY...IT'S **THEM.**

MEN KNOW THAT REGARDLESS OF THEIR ENDLESS SINS AGAINST MUTANTS, THEIR **HEROES** WILL PROTECT THEM. THEY WILL DO WHAT THEIR LEADERS THINK **NEEDS TO BE DONE.**

I WILL TOLERATE IT NO LONGER, EMMA. IT CHANGES NOW.

NO MORE AVENGERS.

TO BE CONTINUED

AVS X

#7

COMING IN TWO WEEKS!

MARVEL COMICS

GREETINGS, TRUE BELIEVERS!

WELCOME TO THE SECOND INSTALLMENT OF INFINITE COMICS, A NEW COMICS-READING EXPERIENCE SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO BE READ DIGITALLY.

TO READ INFINITE COMICS PROPERLY YOU HAVE TO BE IN GUIDED VIEW. IF YOU ARE ON A MOBILE PHONE, YOU ARE ALREADY IN GUIDED VIEW. IF YOU'RE ON A TABLET, DOUBLE TAP THE SCREEN TO ENTER GUIDED VIEW. IF YOU'RE ON A WEB BROWSER, SELECT GUIDED VIEW ON THE TOOLBAR. YOU KNOW YOU'RE IN GUIDED VIEW IF ONE PANEL FADES INTO THE NEXT. TAP THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE SCREEN TO MOVE FORWARD IN THE STORY AND TAP THE LEFT SIDE TO MOVE BACKWARD.

THAT'S IT! TAP THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE SCREEN AND ENJOY!

RECOMMENDED SETTINGS

TAP THE CENTER OF THE SCREEN AND THE INFORMATION BARS ON THE TOP AND THE BOTTOM WILL APPEAR.

- GIVES YOU ANY INFORMATION YOU NEED.
- LETS YOU TO MOVE TO ANY PAGE OF THE STORY.
- SHOWS SETTINGS OPTIONS.
- GIVES YOU HELP, SHOULD YOU NEED IT.

WE HAVE SOME SETTINGS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HOW TO BEST ENJOY THE STORY.

- MAKE SURE "ANIMATE TRANSITIONS" IS TURNED ON.
- SET THE TRANSITION SPEED TO 0.3 SECONDS.
- SELECT "DEFAULT LETTERBOXING."
- TURN BOTH "SHOW PAGE ON ENTER" AND "SHOW PAGE ON EXIT" TO OFF.

UTOPIA.

NOT JUST THE NAME OF THE CITY BELOW.

A DESCRIPTION OF WHAT THE *PLANET EARTH* HAS *BECOME* FOR *HOMO SUPERIOR*, THE *MUTANT RACE*.

PERSECUTED BY HUMANS, DRIVEN NEARLY TO EXTINCTION, THE MUTANTS HAVE NOW ASCENDED TO *DOMINANCE* THANKS TO THE *PHOENIX FORCE*--

--AN OMNIPOTENT POWER DIVIDED BETWEEN FOUR OF THE SUPERIORS AND THEIR ULTIMATE LEADER:

ME.

CYCLOPS THE FIRST.

WHOSE *SINGULAR VISION* HAS AT LAST ACHIEVED FOR MUTANTKIND EVERY GOAL I EVER *SET* FOR US.

WE ARE HAPPY... WE ARE SAFE...AND WE ARE IN CHARGE OF TOMORROW.

SO WHAT'S BOTHERING ME?

AS WE REMAKE THE WORLD, I'VE BEEN STEALING QUIET SECONDS HERE AND THERE TO FERRET IT OUT...

...ONLY TO BE REMINDED OF THE FIRST SURPRISE THAT COMES WITH THE PHOENIX FORCE:

BLUE WITH PURPLE HELP

WHAT I WISH I COULD DO IS TELL ANYONE AROUND

OLD MAN GET STUCK

OUR BEST?

TO A TELEPATHIC MIND...

I WON'T BE

GIVE YOU THAT

WHAT IS HIS BALL

KEPT ME UP

DID YOU WHAT I THINK

BAD BREATH

IT'S OUR

AND WINGS

OH MY

DELICIOUS ENOUGH.

ABOUT WHERE PURPLE

ANYONE AROUND

WHAT IS FOR

MY

ANYONE

OLD MAN

NOT HIS TIME

HE DON'T LO

YOU

LOVE EVER

ME?

SEE

FORGET

TO

HAVE

GOING

ORD

PEOPLE

BE

WHAT

IS

HIS

WOR

VELEX WILL

ANY

ARY

PEOPLE

GO

BACK

UP

YOU

DID

WHAT I

THINK

BAD

IDEA

HUSBAND

SLEEP

GIVE YOU

OH

THAT

...THERE *IS* NO SUCH THING AS *QUIET.*

EXTRA

YOU'LL

HE

LOVE EVERY

UNTIL KNOW HE

IS THERE LOVE DAY

ORDINARY PEOPLE

KEEP ME

DIDN'T

WHAT

BAD BOY

THAT'S

ONE

HOW MUCH

BLUE, PURPLE

WHERE WIDDRPPES

KEPT ME UP

AND WIN

YOU'LL LOVE EVER ME?

I WISH I COULD TELL

ALL

FORGET

TO

OF

OLD MAN

MASHER

MY

HIS

WILL

LIKE

WHAT IS HIS

WORK

THINK

NEXT

WEEK

ALL

ANY

AROUND

OR BET

NO HELP FROM

CHANGE

MAYBE HERE I CAN THINK.

MAYBE *HERE* I CAN *THINK.*

HOW DID *JEAN* EVER HANDLE TELEPATHY FROM SUCH A YOUNG AGE WITHOUT HER *HEAD* EXPLODING?

JEAN.

DARLING JEAN.

WHO DIED ON THIS DUST.

THERE'S THE *SECOND* SURPRISE THAT COMES WITH THE PHOENIX POWER.

IT MAKES HER MEMORY-- THE *LOSS* OF HER-- FRESH AND RAW AGAIN. EVERY DAY. EVERY HOUR.

AS IF EACH STEP I TAKE LEADS ME RIGHT BACK TO--

OH.

I DIDN'T *MEAN* TO COME *HERE*--

--CONSCIOUSLY.

IS THIS A CLUE TO WHAT'S NAGGING ME? I'VE NEVER BEEN ONE TO LET MY MIND *WANDER.*

THE *BLUE AREA* OF THE *MOON.*

AN ANCIENT LUNAR CITY OF ALIEN ORIGIN. SELF-SUSTAINING ECOSYSTEM, OXYGEN ATMOSPHERE.

THE SACRED SITE...

...OF JEAN GREY'S GREATEST *VICTORY.*

YEARS AGO, JEAN WAS THE *FIRST* TO HOLD THE UNTAMED PHOENIX. IT USED HER AS ITS *PUPPET,* COMMITTING *XENOCIDE.*

THE *IMPERIAL GUARD* OF THE *SHI'AR RACE* CONDEMNED HER FOR ITS CRIMES.

THE X-MEN--*MY* X-MEN-- FOUGHT A *BATTLE* HERE TO *SAVE* HER--

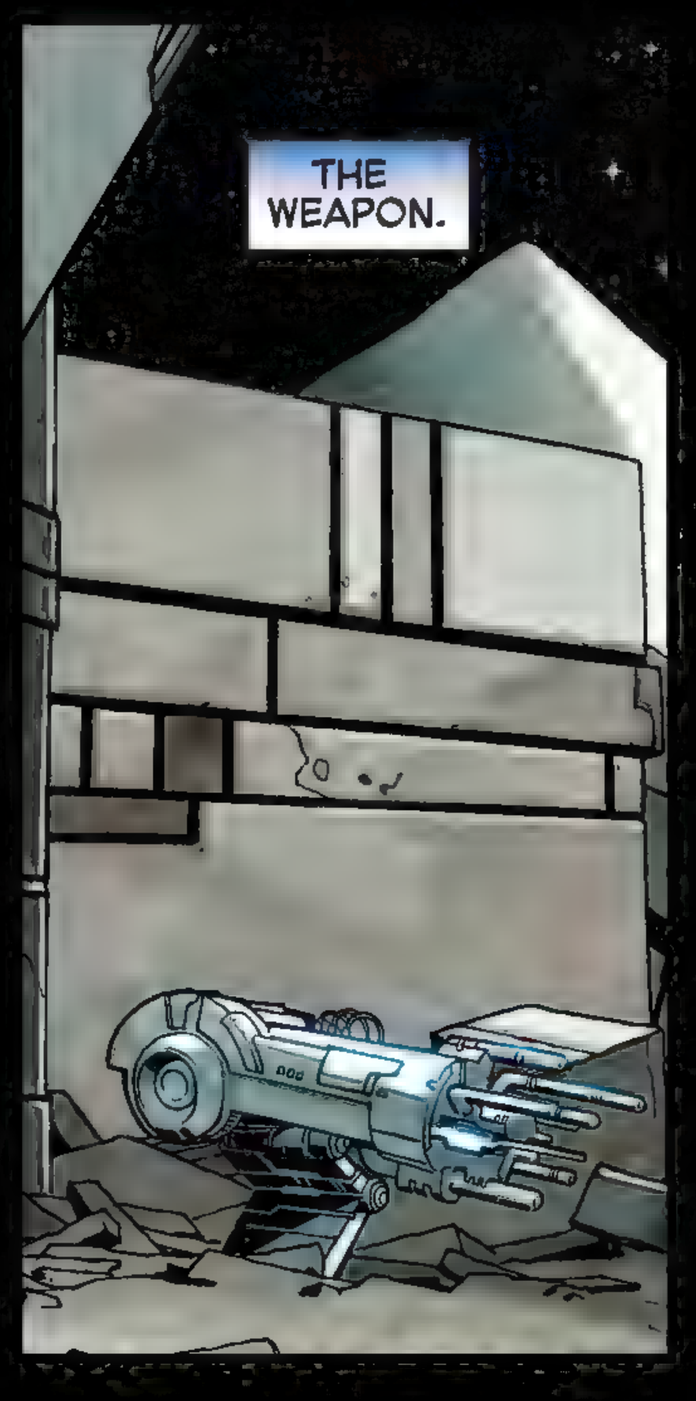
--A MESSY, *CHAOTIC* CLASH--

--THAT ENDED IN THE CRUELEST AND MOST LOVING ACT OF GRACE I'VE EVER WITNESSED--

--WHEN JEAN--

--WHEN JEAN--

MY GOD.


THE WEAPON.

THE WEAPON.

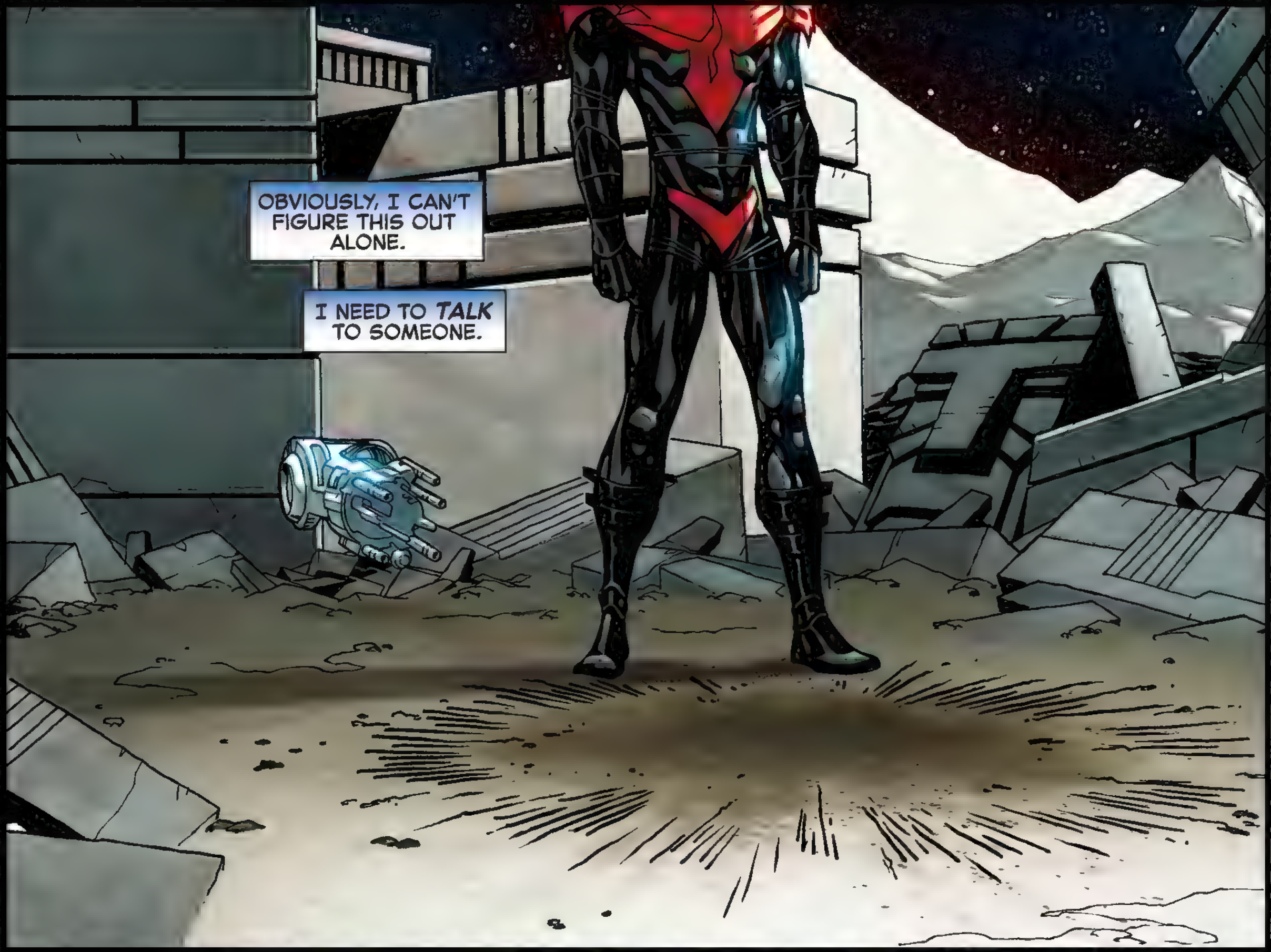
I'VE LED MYSELF TO THE PRECISE SPOT...TO THE EXACT WEAPON JEAN USED...

...TO SACRIFICE HER *LIFE* TO SAVE *US.*

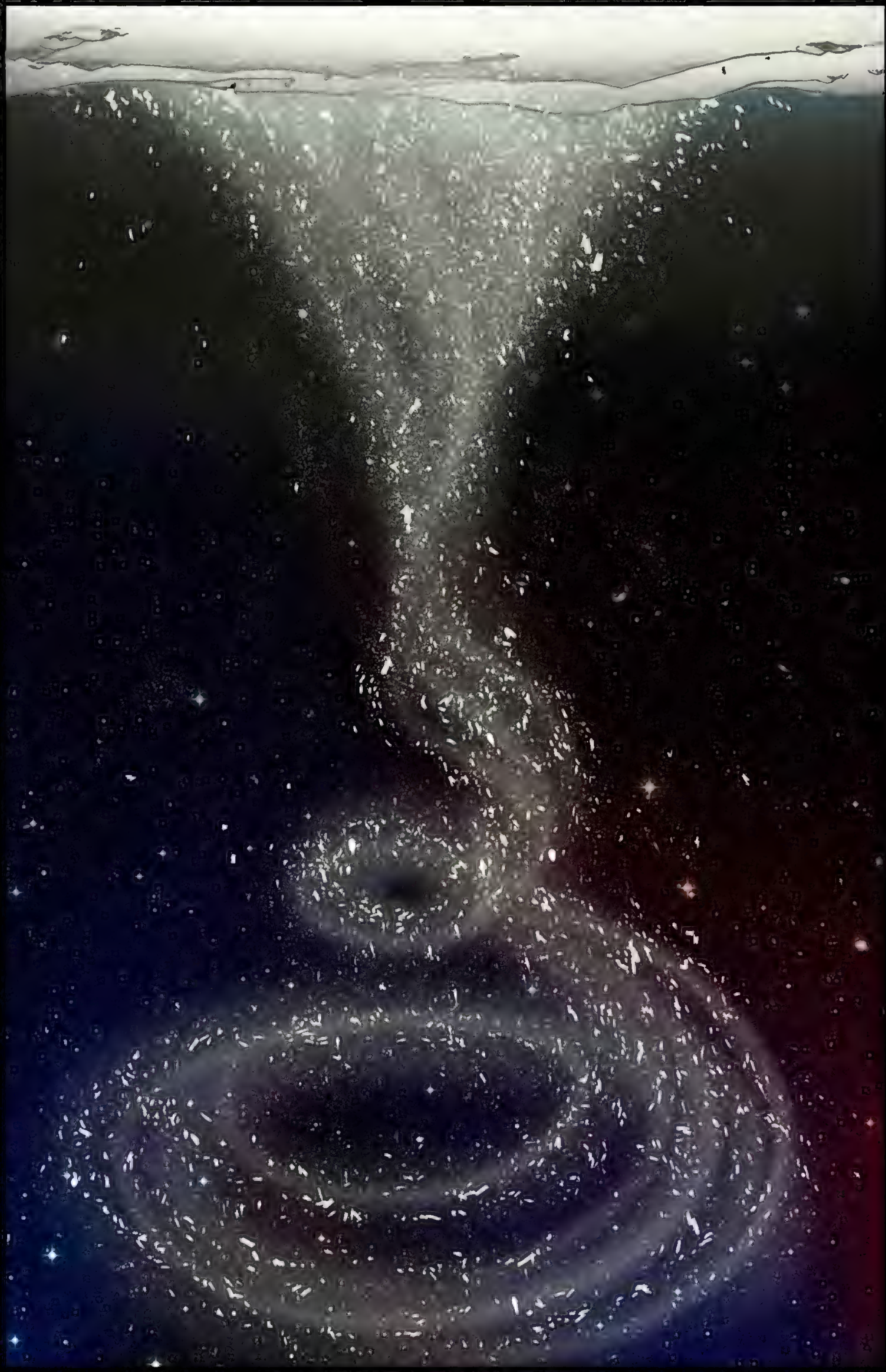
SCOTTI
SCOTTI
SCOTTI
SCO

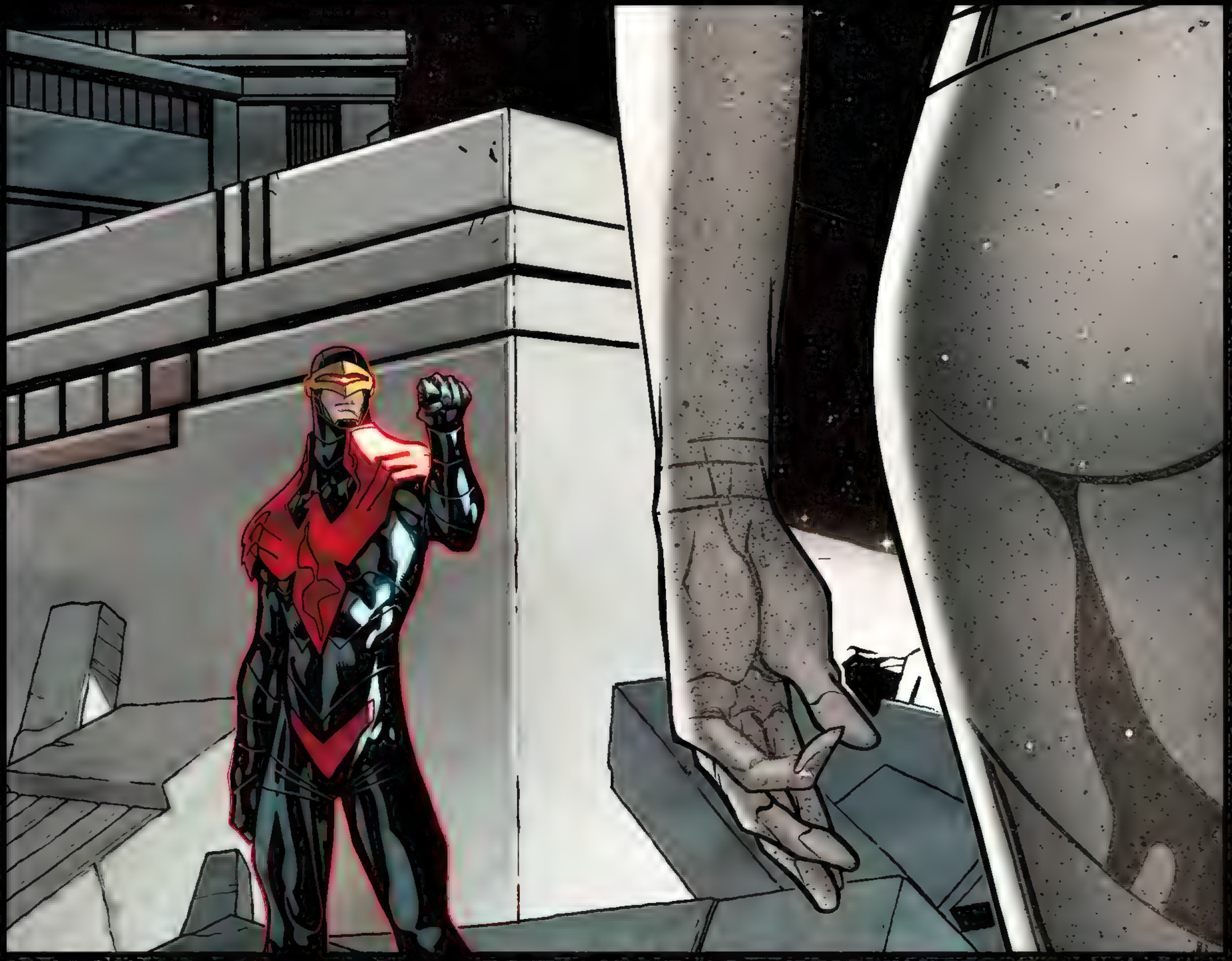
SO WHY DON'T I FEEL ANYTHING?

SCO


OBVIOUSLY, I CAN'T FIGURE THIS OUT ALONE.
I NEED TO *TALK* TO SOMEONE.

THE ONE WHO KNEW ME *BEST.*





HELLO, SCOTT.

HELLO, SCOTT.

HOW HAVE YOU *BEEN?*

I LIKE THE *COSTUME.*

IS IT SUPPOSED TO REPRESENT YOUR *POWER* OR REMIND YOU OF *ME?*

I DON'T NEED REMINDERS, JEAN.

FIRST LOVES TEND TO STICK THAT WAY, DON'T THEY?

NOT THAT YOU'RE SENTIMENTAL. IN FACT, YOU'VE USED THE PHOENIX FORCE VERY *WELL* AND VERY *LOGICALLY*...

...SO FAR.

"SO FAR"?

NO ONE KNOWS QUITE HOW THE PHOENIX FORCE WORKS WHEN IT BONDS WITH YOU, SCOTT. BUT I SUSPECT THAT, IN ITS WAY, IT MOSTLY...*AMPLIFIES* YOU.

WHEN THE PHOENIX REBIRTHED *ME*...

...IT FOUND EXPRESSION THROUGH MY *EMOTIONS.* THEY WERE ALWAYS A LITTLE *OUTSIZED...*

...BUT THE PHOENIX MADE THEM SO *HUGE* THERE WAS NO ROOM UNDER THE SKY FOR MY JOY, MY *GRIEF,* MY LOVE FOR *YOU.*

IN TIME, MY FEELINGS GREW TO STRETCH ACROSS THE MEASURELESS COSMOS, PULLING IT *CLOSE*...

...AND GIVING ME A GLIMPSE OF *INFINITY.*

AND ONCE THAT HAPPENED, SCOTT, EVERYTHING *OUTSIDE* ME... *EVERYTHING...*

...SEEMED SO VERY *TINY.*

THAT WAS YOUR EXPERIENCE. BUT I'VE ALWAYS BEEN MORE CONTROLLED THAN YOU. THAN JUST ABOUT ANYONE. YOU USED TO SAY THAT I INVENTED REPRESSION.

IF ANYONE CAN HOLD THE PHOENIX FORCE IN--

COME ON, SCOTT.

IT'S NOT ABOUT LOSING ***CONTROL.*** IT'S ABOUT LOSING ***PERSPECTIVE.*** LOSING ***YOURSELF.***

IN YOUR CASE, LOSING THE ***EMOTIONAL MEMORY*** OF ALL THE STRUGGLES AND INJUSTICES THAT ***DEFINE*** YOU TO THIS ***DAY.***

IT'S NOT ABOUT LOSING ***CONTROL.*** IT'S ABOUT LOSING ***PERSPECTIVE.*** LOSING ***YOURSELF.***

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THAT'S WHY YOU CAME HERE, SCOTT. TO ***TEST*** YOURSELF.

TO SEE IF YOUR SOUL COULD STILL CONNECT TO THE SINGLE MOST TRAUMATIC MOMENT OF UNCONTROLLED EMOTION YOU'VE EVER EXPERIENCED.

IT'S NOT ABOUT LOSING *CONTROL.* IT'S ABOUT LOSING *PERSPECTIVE.* LOSING *YOURSELF.*

IN YOUR CASE, LOSING THE *EMOTIONAL MEMORY* OF ALL THE STRUGGLES AND INJUSTICES THAT *DEFINE* YOU TO THIS *DAY.*

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AND IT CAN'T.

...

YOU'RE RIGHT. SELF-SACRIFICE, NOBILITY, GRIEF, EVEN LOVE...THEY ALL SEEM SO SMALL. LIKE THE MEMORIES OF A DREAM.

WHENEVER I TRY TO RELIVE WHAT HAPPENED HERE...

SCOTT!

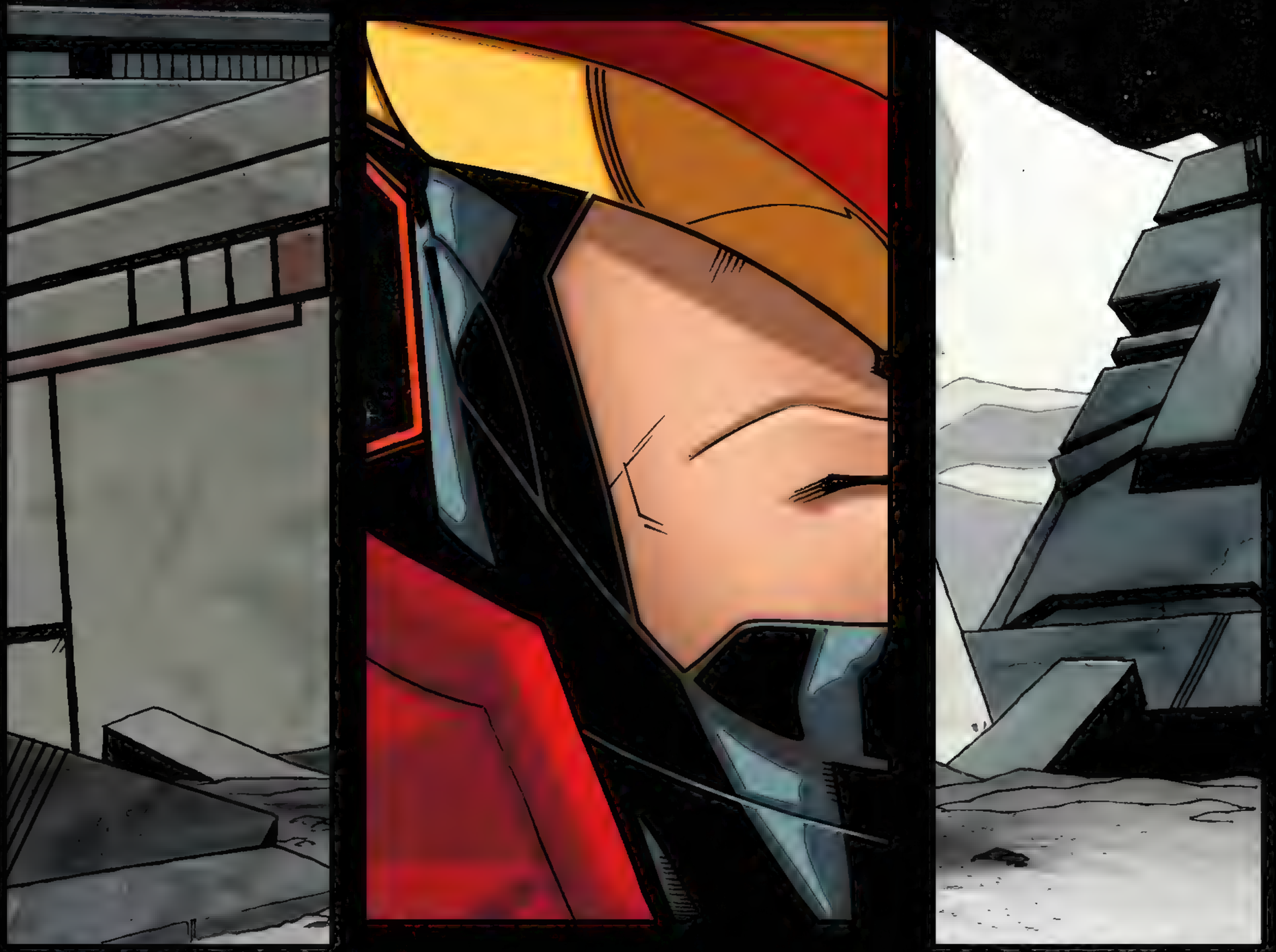
JEAN!

...I TELL MYSELF THAT YOUR--THAT HER SACRIFICE WAS PROFOUND. BUT TO BE HONEST, IT FEELS PETTY.
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? SHOULD I WORRY? DESPITE THIS POWER, THIS OMNIPOTENCE...

...DON'T I STILL HAVE MY HUMANITY?

IF YOU DID...

IF YOU DID...
...WOULD YOU HAVE RECREATED A CORPSE OUT OF MOON DUST?



THAT WAS ONE HELL OF A WAKE-UP CALL.

BUT IT DID THE TRICK.

THAT WAS ONE HELL OF A WAKE-UP CALL.

BUT IT DID THE TRICK.

I KNOW NOW THAT I HAVE TO BE *VIGILANT.* I *CANNOT*-- I *WILL* NOT--LET THE PHOENIX *CHANGE* ME.

INSIDE ALL THIS POWER, I HAVE TO PRESERVE THE *MAN* I'VE ALWAYS BEEN.

I HAVE TO REMEMBER *WHY* I FIGHT.

BECAUSE IF I LOSE SIGHT OF *THAT*...

I KNOW NOW THAT I HAVE TO BE *VIGILANT*. I *CANNOT*-- I *WILL* NOT--LET THE PHOENIX *CHANGE* ME.

INSIDE ALL THIS POWER, I HAVE TO PRESERVE THE *MAN* I'VE ALWAYS BEEN.

...WHAT'S IT ALL BEEN *FOR?*

...IN A HANDFUL OF DUST

MARK WAID
CO-PLOT & SCRIPT

YVES BIGEREL
CO-PLOT AND STORYBOARDS

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